MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

North River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Berry Station Church, Fayette County, Ala.,

September 25, 26, and 27, 1897.

OFFICERS:

W. B. APPLING, Moderator, ... Jasper, Ala.
J. S. WATTS, Clerk, ... Oakman, Ala.

The next Session to be held with Carbon Hill Baptist Church, Walker County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1898.

The Richardson Printing Works, Jasper, Ala.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Invite visiting ministers not delegates to seats.
7. Receive Correspondence.
8. Return Correspondence.
9. Appointment of Special Committees:
   - (1) On Religious Exercises.
   - (2) On Documents and Requests.
   - (3) On nominations.
   - (4) On Finance.
10. Call for Report of Standing Committees.:
    - (1) On Sunday Schools.
    - (2) On Sunday School organization.
    - (3) On Temperance.
    - (4) On State Missions.
    - (5) On Home Missions.
    - (6) On Foreign Missions.
    - (7) On Denominational Education.
    - (8) On Religious Exercises.
    - (9) On Religious Literature.
    - (10) On Orphan's Home.
    - (11) On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
    - (12) On Aged and Infirm Ministers.
11. Report of Treasurer.
12. Appoint Treasurer.
13. Call for Report of Special Committees:
    - (1) On Documents and Requests.
    - (2) On Nominations.
    - (3) On Finance.
14. Call for Report of Executive Committee.
15. Appoint Standing Committees.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Read Minutes, call Roll and Adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Sixty Third Annual Session of the North River Association, met with Berry Station Church, on Saturday, September 25, 1897.

At 11 a. m. was called to order by W. B. Appling, the Moderator of the previous Association.

Devotional exercises conducted by Elder J. W. Rogers.

The Constitution was read by J. A. Huggins, Articles of Faith by R. F. Sumner, and Rules of Decorum by J. A. Huggins.

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS.

Bretheren L. A. Morris and H. L. Watlington were appointed to read the letters.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Bethabara—W A Pendley, I N Awtrey, H A Kimbrell and W B Oakley.
Bethlehem—D A Kemp, B F Baker, and J W Popwell.
Bethel—G W Kilgore, G W Morris and W T Morris.
Berry Station—B L Stanley, L F Gammon and B F Freeman.
Bethpage—S S Brown and A J O'Rear.
Carbon Hill—J I McCollum, G C Anderson, B G Chambers, J L Dickenson and Geo Moore.
Coal City—Wm R Randolph, F E Mills and J W Randolph.
Jasper—Wm Randolph, L A Morris, W B Appling, G D O'Rear, J H McGuire, J A Huggins, C C Kelley, H L Watlington, J M Williams and W T Walton.
Lebanon—A Kilgore, J T Jones, A Kimbrell, J L Jones and J B Kimbrell.
Mt Zion—Wm Patton, M L Jones, A J Hegwood and W R Thacker.
Mt Joy—J M Kimbrell, H G Amerson, Z Moore and W A Kimbrell.
New Hope—J W Bagwell, F M Mackey and E W Christian.
New Prospect—Green Cooner, A M Sherer, W T Brown, Samuel Snoddy and T W Sherer.
Oakman—J S Watts, S W Vice, T J Creel, Luther Sides and Samuel Appling.
Oregonia—D J Utley, J G Jones and Washington Utley.
Pleasant Grove—W F Sides, L J Thomas, J B Grace and T J Jackson.
Providence—W H Lollar, W T Savage, Robt Courington, Jr., and Samuel Sartain.
Pleasant Field—J T Grace, R N Miner and G N Taff.
Samaria—J S Gabbert, Jno C Daniel, J T Sherer and R F Sumner.
Townley—J C Manasco, J F Fike and Clanton Manasco.
Union Grove—J M Cannon, J N Cannon and J W Baker.

The Association was permanently organized by the election (by ballot) of W. B. Appling, Moderator, and J. S. Watts, Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters from newly constituted churches, and a letter and delegates were received from Sulphur Springs Church—W. B. Earnest, R. M, Earnest, O. G. Kilgore and S. D. Earnest.

Received visiting ministers who were not delegates to-wit: Elders L. B. Harbin, R. A. Baker, L. H. Baker, M. M. Wood, representative of Howard College and also ot Ministerial Education, W. C. Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary State Board Missions and J. W. Stewart, Superintendent Orphan's Home, Evergreen.

Adjourned for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

At 2 p. m. met and was called to order. Devotional exercises by J. W. Stewart, of the Orphanage. Then letters were read by the clerk from Professor J. A. J. Brock, principal Berry High School, and Bro R. M. Archibald, Pastor in charge M E Church, tendering the school building for the use of the Association while in session. A motion carried that the Association tender thanks to Bro. Archibald and Professor Brock for their kind offer of the school building.

Committee on State Missions being absent, J. H. McGuire was appointed to prepare a report.

Committee on Foreign Missions being absent, H. L. Watlington was appointed to prepare a report.

Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers being absent, L. A. Morris was appointed to prepare a report.

Committee on Religious Literature being absent, J. H. McGuire was appointed to prepare a report.

Received correspondence from:

New River Association, J E Cox and Bro Baker; Harmony Grove Association, W J Killingsworth, Q D Haney and J W Rogers.

Letter from Townley Church received and read.

Returned correspondence to-wit:

Tuscaloosa Association, W T Walton and J W Bagwell; New River Association, W A Kimbrell, H L Watlington, J M Kimbrell and I N Awtrey; Clear Creek Association, James Hilton; Mud Creek Association, L A Morris; Harmony Grove Association, C C Kelley, I N Awtrey, W B Earnest, L A Morris and H L Watlington.

The following committees were announced by the Moderator towit:

On Religious Exercises—Pastor and deacons of Berry Church and H G Amerson and W B Oakley.

On Documents and Requests—N H Harbin, J W Bagwell and Asberry Kimbrell.

On Nominations—J H McGuire, S W Vice and B L Stanley.

On Finance—G D O'Rear, B F Freeman and W F Sides.

Report on Sunday Schools was deferred till Sundaymorning, 9 o'clock.

Report on Temperance was postponed till Sunday 3 p m.

Report of Committee to Organize Sunday Schools was deferred to be read in connection with Sunday School Report.

Report of Orphans Home was read by H. L. Watlington, and after being spoken to by J. W. Stewart and others was adopted.

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

Your committee appointed at the last session of this body beg leave to report, that we as a body do not fail to fully appreciate the great blessing the Louis Short Baptist Widows' and Orphans' Home of Alabama, has been to a large number of children of Baptist parentage, but we fear that the churches composing this Association have not performed their full duty towards this institution. The institution was first started by Sister M. L. B. Woodson in 1890, and in 1893 The Home was temporarily located at Evergreen, Ala. Since the organization of the Home, 33 boys and 37 girls have been admitted to its benefits, two boys have gone out of it to apprenticeship, five boys and nine girls have been adopted by friends. In those received, we notice that Walker county has contributed six children. We do earnestly urge that every church, Sunday School, and Baptist Young People's Union in this Association will earnestly bestir themselves and extend all the financial assistance possible, and we recommend that each church in this Association do appoint at least one Sunday in the year to take a collection for this purpose.

H. L. Watlington,
Chairman.

On motion the Reports on State and Foreign Missions were read. Report on Home Missions, not being ready, was deferred for the present. All the reports on missions were discussed jointly by W. C. Bledsoe and M. M. Wood. The further discussion of missions was deferred till Monday morning.

Report on Prayer and Prayer Meeting was read by A. Kilgore; after being spoken to by L. B. Harbin, W. B. Appling and J. E. Cox, was adopted.

REPORT ON PRAYER AND PRAYER MEETING.

Dear Brethren, we are needy and God has the blessings we need to give. They are all treasured up in Christ—He says, "Men ought always to pray and faint not," "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." The Apostle says, "Pray all prayer." The Saviour says, "When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the the midst of them." That promise is the same today. In view of these promises, we think every church ought to have a regular organized prayer-meeting; and they ought to report the time of holding the same to the Association that it may be published in the minutes. Yours Respectfully,

L. B. Harbin,
Chairman.

Adjourned until Sunday 9 a. m.

Saturday night the Associational Sermon was preached by L. A. Morris, at the close of which, M. M. Wood represented in a very interesting speech the interests of Howard College and Ministerial Education.

Preaching at the school building, by J. W. Rogers.

SUNDAY, MORNING SESSION.

At 9 a. m. met pursuant to adjournment, was called to order by Moderator. Devotional exercises, conducted by L. B. Harbin.

Report on Sunday Schools read by L. A. Morris.

Report of Committee to Organize Sunday Schools read by J. S. Watts.

The above reports, after being discussed jointly by L. A. Morris, J. H. McGuire, J. S. Watts, S. W. Vice, L. B. Harbin and M. M. Wood, were adopted.

On motion the Clerk was authorized to incorporate a synopsis of the Sunday School Convention in the minutes.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to submit the following report;

1st. While we regret to say that the noble work of Sunday Schools has not been pushed with such zeal and earnestness as the situation demand in our Association, we are glad to observe a general awakening on this line, as evinced by numerous reports from the interior in which it appears that schools formerly of short duration, have been continued through the year.

2nd. We are especially glad to note from the report of the Sunday School Board to the Southern Baptist Convention the remarkable success of the Board financially; and we heartily recommend a correspondence with said Board by the secretary of every school in our Association; in order that we may all be fully informed as to the purposes and plans of said Board, and become co-workers with them. We believe that the Association should contribute to the Bible fund of this Board and thus aid in the distribution of the Word of Life to as many, and as soon as possible. We call attention to the reduction in prices of Sunday School literature. Advanced Quarterlies now only cost 2cts. a quarter, 8cts. a year. In conclusion, we recommend that this Association request its clerk to determine, from the letters of the churches, what churches have Sunday Schools and what churches have none, and let the minutes of this Association show a column for each, so that our Board can see where to work, so that we may soon find our annual minutes showing a twelve month's Sunday School in every church. Respectfully submitted,

L. A. Morris, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee appointed to organize Sunday Schools in the North River Association, beg leave to submit the following report: Since our appointment there has been organized in our Association seven schools, which, in connection with the number already organized, makes the number of schools in our Association fourteen. We find some of our churches fully alive to their duty in this great work, but we regret to report that a great many individual Baptists and some of our churches seem perfectly indifferent in regard to the importance of this work. Respectfully submitted,

J. A. Huggins, Chairman.

Report of Sunday School Convention which held its last session with the Oakman Baptist Church, commencing on Friday, before and including the fourth Sunday in July, 1897.

Sunday Schools were represented from Jasper, Oakman, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Field, Providence, Liberty Grove, Mt. Carmel, Zion and Samaria churches.

Next convention to be held with Jasper Baptist Church, including the fifth Sunday in July, 1898. Committee on programme J. H. McGuire, J. S. Watts and W. T. Walton.

L. B. Harbin, President.

J. S. Watts, Secretary.

Adjourned for preaching. At 11 a. m. a missionary sermon was preached by Bro. J. W. Stewart to a large and attentive congregation, subject, "Thy Kingdom Come," after which a collection was taken for missions, amounting to $21.10.

Preaching at the same hour at the school building by Bro. M. M. Wood, of Howard College. A collection was taken at that place for Ministerial Education, amounting to $3.41.

EVENING SESSION.

At 3 p. m. met pursuant to adjournment and after devotional exercises by A. Kilgore was called to order. The report on Temperance was read by R. F. Sumner, and after being spoken to by L. B. Harbin and several other bretheren, was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance submit the following: We are of the opinion that intemperance is decreasing at a rapid rate in our country, and we believe that the day is not far distant when a large majority of our church members will be total abstainers from strong drink. May the Lord speed the day when not only a large majority will abstain from strong drink, but that all will touch not the unclean thing, and thus teach the rising generation lessons of temperance and sobriety, for we know that strong drink is the cause of more crime, misery, and poverty than all other evils combined. The Bible says "No drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven." Therefore should all be temperate, and not only temperate, but total abstainers from strong drink, for "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging." Respectfully submitted,

R. F. Sumner, Chairman.

Adjourned till 8 a. m. Monday.

Preaching at night at the Baptist Church, by Bro. J. W. Rogers; at the school building by Bro L. H. Baker.

MONDAY, MORNING SESSION.

At 8 a. m. met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises, by Bro. W. B. Earnest; called for delegates who failed to arrive on Saturday; letter and delegates were received from Bethpage church. Report on Home Missions was read by H. G. Amerson.

On motion all speeches were limited to five minutes, except chairmen of committees, who were allowed ten minutes opening speech.

The further discussion of the reports on Missions was taken up, and after being spoken to by L. B. Harbin, J. W. Rogers, J. H. McGuire and L. A. Morris, were adopted.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

There is no question of greater importance or demanding more imperatively our immediate concentrated action than the question of Home Missions. Your committee has no data at hand from which to report statistics of this important work. The Board has done a great work in the past and it is yet doing great good and deserves to be fostered by our means equally with our state and foreign boards. The work done in Cuba alone is enough to commend the Home Board to our hearty support. Brethren, let us not neglect our Home Mission Work.

H. G. Amerson, Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Missions submit the following report: "The State Board of Missions is the organ of the Baptists of Alabama(1) in collecting and remitting contributions for Foreign and Home Missions; (2) in helping infant churches in important points where otherwise Baptist churches could not be established; (3) in prosecuting evangelistic work in the State at large for the further evangelizing and enlisting of our people in Christian work; (4) in doing missionary and colportage work where such is needed; (5) in caring for aged and disabled ministers and their widows and orphans against want; (6) in seeking to foster a spirit of fellowship and co-operation between churches in the Master's service and bringing them to contribute to each other's upbuilding and mutual usefulness.

It will therefore be seen that the work of this Board is far-reaching and of the most vital importance. It calls for your money, your heart and your prayers.

The Southern Baptist Convention is coming to work more and more through the States. There is a warrant in Scripture for thus aggregating the churches according to the political divisions of the country. Paul speaks of the "churches of Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, Judea," and Prof. Ramsey has shown that these groups of churches are according to the political divisions of Paul's day. So we, in our inter-church work, may group our churches as "the churches of Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Texas," etc. The reason for this is found not in the political authority of any division, but in the fact that aggregates must follow and conform to fellowship, which, being dependent upon association, follows, in turn, the lines of associated life. Hence this Board is the organ of the Southern Baptist Convention for Alabama in eliciting, collecting and forwarding funds for its work and the distribution of its literature, and a medium through which it may educate the people in its work. It will become more and more a necessity just here.

Again, we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and bear one another's burdens, so fulfilling the law of Christ. Hence it is the organ through which the churches that are strong may help the weaker sisters. So the Board has helped many an infant church to grow into a full grown body of Christ where otherwise Baptists would have had no representative. Nearly every city church in Alabama, and not a few country ones, now our largest contributors, has thus been built up. This work has been done with such efficiency in the past that now but little remains along this line. Yet we are doing not a little in Greensboro, Selma, South Montgomery, and at other weak points. But these churches bid fair to be self-sustaining in a few years and the board will turn the helping hand to other needy points.

But it is manifest that as churches are planted and grown in the several points of destitution, this line of work is gradually disappearing and will ultimately cease when every community has a Baptist church.

The line now most largely engaging the energies of our people is evangelistic work. There are in the several sections of the State six evangelists—Bro. Preston in the Southeast, Bro. Anderson in the East, Bro. Burns in the North, Bro. Sandlin in the Northwest, Bro. Dickenson in and around Birmingham, Bro. Parker in the Southwest. These brethren, selected because of their fitness for this work, are now operating under the appointment and council of the Board. This work is comparatively new, but has already proven itself both wise and timely. It is almost self-sustaining, and every indication is that the number of men should be doubled very soon. These evangelists go wherever occasion most requires, preaching the gospel, enlisting the churches in missionary work, interesting brethren in each other, fostering and conserving the fellowship of the saints, educating our people in missionary work and the work of the Lord in general, and building up the body of Christ. We have every reason to be grateful to God for his blessing on this work. It is doing great good.

The work of the colporteur is now very much displaced by other more remunerative lines of work. Besides, the ease with which books may be gotten through the trade has relegated the colporteur to only a few less favored sections. This work is now done here and there by the district association in co-operation with the Board.

The care of aged and infirm ministers is a line of work in which our people have reason to blush at their inefficiency. Their provision for these to whom so many of them owe their very soul's salvation is poor indeed and behind that of their brethren in every other State. Let us awake to our obligation in this matter and send up a gift to those who have spent and been spent to build up the Lord's work. They have labored and we have entered into their labors. Let us not forget that we must minister to them in temporal things while we enjoy the products of their labors. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGuire, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee on Foreign missions beg leave to report, that from our observation on the subject, we feel that we can state that God has graciously and abundantly blessed the efforts of his people in spreading the joyful news of salvation through a crucified Christ throughout the remotest corners of earth. We rejoice that wherever the glad tidings are proclaimed, religious liberty and civilization have taken the place of fanaticism and barbarism. God has blessed the work of Baptist Missionaries, although they have too often been compelled not only to fight the black idolatry of the nations, but the errors and superstitions of those who under the guise of Christ have sought to delude those who were hungering for the pure word. We call upon every church in this Association to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. We can, by our financial aid, willingly made, by God's help, assist in holding up the hands of our noble brethren, who are holding aloft the blood-stained banner of the cross in the darkest portions of the world. We recommend that each church of this Association do take greater interest in this work, and that at our next session a larger number of letters will indicate that this suggestion has been more generally complied with here in Alabama. 117,536 Baptists who contributed only $6563.29 or an average of not quite 5cts. each. This ought not to be. H. L. Watlington, Chairman.

Report on Eldridge School was read by H. L. Watlington, and after some discussion, was adopted.

To the North River Baptist Association, in session with the Berry Station Baptist Church. Your committee on Eldridge school beg leave to report that since the last session of this body, your committee has by a great effort nearly completed the building. Work is now being done and we hope in a few weeks to have it ready for occupancy. Your committee report that no material aid has been rendered this work by any other association, but we trust that our brethren of neighboring associations, while they have failed to assist us in the erection of the building, will patronize the institution and thus enable the trustees in the future to furnish educational facilities, with the addition of moral and religious guardianship. We succeeded at the last session of the Legislature of Alabama in having the school incorporated under the name of the West Alabama Male and Female College, with the following brethren as a board of trustees: C. C. Kelley, H. L. Watlington, J. H. McGuire, Wm. G. Davis, L. C. Kelley, Wm. Thorogood. E. D. Kelley, Q. D. Haney, and F. D. McLain. The act authorizes an issue and sale of small certificates of stock, thus enabling every one to take an interest in this educational movement.

FINANCIAL.

We had on hand at the last session of this body the sum of $502 in unpaid subscription. Of this amount part has been collected and as fast as collected has been expended, but your committee needs funds to complete the interior and furnish the proper and requisite school furniture to enable the trustees to elect a faculty and commence the educational work at once. As a committee, we make our last appeal to you to patronize this institution. It is yours. Before another session of this body convenes the trustees will be chosen and we will as a committee have performed our labors. We trust the Baptists of this and neighboring associations will put their shoulders to the wheel and by their

prayers and patronage prove that as Baptists they feel a denominational pride in this the only institution of its kind in Western Alabama.

H. L. Watlington,
C. C. Kelley,
W. G. Davis,
} Committee.

Report on Religious Literature read by J. H. McGuire and was adopted without discussion.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We recommend the Southern Baptist lesson helps for our Sunday Schools; The "Alabama Baptist" and "Western Recorder" for our homes and the "Baptist Union," published at Chicago, and the publication of the Baptist Mission Rooms of Baltimore, for our Baptist Young People's Unions. We are living in an age when the printing press is turning out millions of books annually, good, bad and indifferent. It is a difficult matter for the best informed to select out of this confused mass wholesome reading matter for our young people. They will read something. If we fail to provide the best, they are almost sure to get the worst; for Satan and his angels are more active and energetic in sowing tares than the good are to sow wheat. The Holy Spirit hath said: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light," Luke 16:8. Then it is clearly the duty of Christian parents to occupy the ground first. General Forest was once asked by an admiring lady friend to explain how he managed always to win his battles. The rugged old warrior bluntly replied: Madam I got there first with the most men." That is the idea pre-occupation. If we can first store the mind with useful knowledge there will not only be no room for the vicious, but there will be no taste for it.

Let us then, out of this great abundance of cheap literature, good, bad and indifferent, select the best and store the mind with good and useful knowledge.

Respectfully submitted.
J. H. McGuire, Chairman.

Report on Denominational Education was read and after being discussed by J. H. McGuire and others was adopted.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

The first and most important Theological Seminary in this world is a consecrated Baptist home, where the Bible is read every night around the hearthstone in the family circle and prayer offered to Almighty God. This is denominational education that will stick forever. It matters but little about comment. The Word itself is sufficient. If the seeds are thus sown by the plain intelligible reading of that good old book from day to day, and then watered by devout prayer to Him who "giveth the increase," a large crop of Baptist young people is bound to follow. This is the thing and the only thing we may rely upon for solid denominational strength. Theological Schools, Colleges and Seminaries are well enough in their place, and afford oportunities for educating young ministers and all that sort of thing; but what per cent of the sinew and backbone of our church ever findtheir way into a college?

The broad superstructure upon which the Baptist denomination must rely for support and strength to evangelize the world, is the great middle class of people whose education, as a rule, so far as actual going to school is concerned, is begun and ended in the township public schools of our state, where denominational tenets cannot and ought not to be taught. It follows then, that if our Baptist young people at large are to have denominational training at all, that training must begin in the home.

The second greatest and most important Theological Seminary for denominational training, is the Baptist Sunday School. Here again, though not as at home, the Bible can be read, studied and taught one day out of seven, though under certain restrictions and limitations as to time. etc., which hamper us not in our homes. It offers some advantages, however, which are wanting in some

homes, i. e., the teachers may be, and usually are, made up of the very best material at hand. This is not always so, however, we are sorry to say.

The Sunday School may reach a large class of children, thousands of whom can never see inside of our denominational schools and colleges, and thousands of whom, sad to say, can never receive Bible training in any other way, owing to indifference or ignorance, or both, upon the part of parents and guardians, who neglect the home training.

The third medium of denominational education comes through the reading matter, or denominational literature, which we provide for our children. This is greatly neglected. It is not sufficiently thought of or appreciated by the average parent. We take newspapers for ourselves, but forget the children. If good, wholesome, newsy, readable, well illustrated newspapers, books, magazines and periodicals ever find their way to the centre-table in the Baptist home, Baptist children will find and read them. On the contrary, if trashy, pernicious literature, whether in the shape of "dime novels" of the "yallerbacked" type or what not, is allowed to creep into the family home, the little prying eyes will find it out and read it, and like any other seed sown, it will "bear fruit after its kind."

Last of all our distinctively Denominational Schools, Colleges and Seminaries come in for their share of our support; and all other things being equal, it is the part of a good loyal Baptist to patronize them in preference to secular schools; and we take pleasure in commending the Judson Institute at Marion, and the Central Female College at Tuskaloosa for our girls, and the Howard College at East Lake for our boys; and we can but regret that the action of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., in retaining at its head a man who has thrown his great weight and influence in the scale against long cherished and universally accepted Baptist views in regard to our history, forbid that we should commend that institution to our brethren, at least whilst Dr. Whitsitt retains a chair in the faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGuire,

Chairman Standing Committee.

Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers was read, and after being spoken to by L. A. Morris and several other brethren was adopted.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

We, your committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, beg leave to report; We have learned of but one Brother who is strictly on this list, Brother L. B. Harbin, whose name is so dear to us all that it touches a responsive chord in the hearts, not only in this Association, but wherever his long and devoted life has been known. We find reported in this Association for his benefit $30.20. Brethren, when we consider the sacrifices he has made for us, we regard this sum entirely too meagre to show our gratitude for such a life of devotion. We therefore recommend that this Association now make additional contribution for his benefit; and that each church in this Association give the contribution of one Sunday in each year for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

L. A. Morris, Chairman.

Then a collection was taken for Brother L. B. Harbin amounting to $14.00. On motion Brother J. A. Howard was received and welcomed as a representative of the Alabama Baptist.

PLEDGES FOR BRO. L. B. HARBIN.

Oakman	$10 00	New Prospect	2 50
Bethabara	5 00	Oregonia	3 00
Bethlehem	5 00	Pleasant Grove	10 00
Bethel	2 00	Providence in corn	5 00
Carbon Hill	5 00	Pleasant Field	3 00
Coal City	5 00	Samaria	5 00
Jasper	20 00	Townley	2 50
A. Kilgore	2 00	Sulphur Springs	3 00
Mt. Zion	5 00		
Mt. Joy	5 00	Total	$98 00

Treasurer's Report read and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received for minutes		$21 85
" " Associational purposes		10 95
" " Foreign Missions		7 00
" " Orphanage		8 94
" " L. B. Harbin		17 23
Total receipts		$65 97
Paid L. B. Harbin	$17 23	
" Orphanage	8 94	
" Foreign Missions	7 00	
" for printing minutes	20 00	
" clerk for services	10 95	
" for paper and postage	1 85	
Total paid out		$65 97

Respectfully submitted,
J. S. Watts, Treasurer.

Appointed J. S. Watts Treasurer for ensuing year.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We, your committee on Documents and Requests, make the following report: That there is nothing filed with the clerk that claims our attention except the request from Carbon Hill, Coal City and Pleasant Grove churches asking for the next association to meet with their churches. We recommend that the next association meet with Carbon Hill church on Kansas City Railroad.

Respectfully submitted,
N. H. Harbin, Chairman.

Letter received and read from Union Grove church.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations report: To preach the Associational Sermon next year, Wm. B. Earnest, J. I. McCollum, alternate. To preach Sunday 11 o'clock, James Hilton, R. A. Baker, alternate. Delegates State Convention: J. S. Watts, B. F. Freeman, H. L. Watlington, J. I. McCollum, W. B. Earnest, C. C. Collins, Wm. Patton, R. A. Baker and J. R. Sartain; Altenates: W. B. Appling, E. H. Bagwell, S. E. Hodge R. F. Sumner, L. A. Morris, J. C. Manasco, A. S. Sparks, L. P Kiker, and Geo. Anderson. Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention: G. D. O'Rear, alternate, T. J. Creel.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. McGuire, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We, your Executive Committee submit the following report:

DEBITS.

1896.			
Sept. 28th.	To Cash from Samaria Church		$ 1 00
" " " " "	New Prospect Church		50
" " " " "	Jasper Church		6 25
" " " " "	New Prospect Church, (per Mooney)		50
Oct. 20th.	" " "	Oakman Church	2 50
" " " " "	Providence Church		2 00
Nov. 2nd.	" " "	Jasper Church	3 75
Dec. 12th.	" " "	Pleasant Grove Church	2 00
1897.			
Feb. 12th.	" " "	Bethabara Church	1 00
April 12th.	" " "	Jasper Church	5 64
		Total receipts	$ 25 14

CREDITS.

1896.

Sept. 29th.	By Cash paid Rev. James Hilton	$ 7 25
Oct. 2nd.	" " " " " "	9 25
April 17th.	" " " " " "	8 64
	Total credits	$25 14

To balance due Rev. James Hilton $25 14
By amount paid " " " 25 14

We, your committe, would recommend that this Association employ a Missionary to travel and preach in the destitute parts of our Association, the Lord having wonderfully blessed us with good crops, whereby we are enabled to support a Missionary. "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully."

J. F. APPLING, Chairman Committee.

On motion it was ordered that the names of the churches be called and promises be taken for missions.

Bethabara	$ 5 00
Bethlehem (will do what we can.)	
Bethel	2 00
Berry Station	2 00
Carbon Hill	5 00
Coal City	2 00
Jasper	50 00
Lebanon	5 00
Mt. Zion	5 00
Mt. Joy	5 00
New Hope	5 00
New Proseect	2 50
Oakman	10 00
Oregonia (will do what we can.)	
Townley	5 00
Pleasant Grove	5 00
Sulphur Springs	5 00
Samaria (will do what we can.)	

Adjourned for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

At 1:30 p. m. met pursuant to adjournment, Devotional exercises by Alsey Johnson.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance submit the following report:

Received for State Missions		$ 5 30
" " Home "		25
" " Foreign "		3 35
" " L. B. Harbin		21 65
" " Orphanage		1 55
" " Minutes		22 10
" " Associational purposes		13 55
		$67 75

CREDITS.

Paid J. S. Watts for State Missions	$ 5 30
" " " " Home "	25
" " " " Foreign "	3 35
" " " " Minutes	22 10
" " " " Associational purposes	13 55
" J. W. Stewart orphanage	1 55
" Bro. L. B. Harbin	21 65
	$67 75

Respectfully submitted, G. D. O'REAR, Chairman.

The Moderator announced standing committees viz:

On Sunday Schools:—J H McGuire, B G Chambers and Wm R Randolph.
On Sunday School Organization:—J S Watts, J A Huggins, G G Bagwell. H G Amerson and James E Vice.
On Temperance:—J I McCollum, J M Williams and F E Mills.
On State Missions:—L A Morris, James T Jones and W T Savage.
On Home Missions:—R F Sumner, W A Watts and F M McKey.
On Foreign Missions:—J A Huggins, H G Amerson and J M Kimbrell.
On Denominational Education:—S Lacy, J W Sartain and Wm Patton.
On Religious Literature:—S W Vice, J C Manasco and Jas T Grace.
On Orphan's Home:—H L Watlington, W B Earnest and L F Gammon.
On Prayer and Prayer-meeting:—L B Harbin, Samuel Appling and J S Gabbert.
On Aged and Infirm Ministers:—A Kilgore, John C Daniel and George Appling.
Executive Committee:—J F Appling, G D O'Rear, D J Files, D H Clifton and S W Vice.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Resolved, That this Association do recommend that the several churches composing this Association do appoint their ministers and pastors in the future, as delegates to this Association, and to insist on their prompt attendance.

H. L. Watlington.

Be it Resolved by this Association, in session, That we do return our heartfelt thanks to the noble citizens of Berry Station for the generous manner in which they have received and entertained the delegates to this Association, and we pray the blessings of God upon them, both spiritually and temporally.

H. L. Watlington.

Resolved, That the fund sent up by the churches for associational purposes be, and the same is, hereby appropriated for the clerk to pay him for his services in preparing and having printed the minutes of this session.

J. H. McGuire.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the Moderator and Clerk for the manner in which they have conducted this session of the Association

G. D. O'Rear.

At the request of friends, a collection was taken for Berry church to buy Sunday School literature, amounting to $2.20.

Then a collection was taken for Bro. Alsey Johnson, amounting to $3.32.

On motion reading minutes and calling roll was dispensed with.

After singing, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with Carbon Hill Church, on the K. C. M. & B. R. R., Walker County, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1898.

W. B. Appling, Moderator.

J. S. Watts, Clerk.

N. B.—The clerks of the churches of this Association will please notify me at once if they have a Sunday School and give Superintendents name and address; if they have no Sunday School please give reason for not having.

J. S. Watts,
Chairman of Committee to Organize S. S.

Financial Exhibit North River Association, for the Year 1897.

CHURCHES	State Missions	Visiting Ministers	Home Missions	Foreign Missions.	Associational Fund.	Ministerial Education	College Buildings	Aged, Infirm Ministers	Orphan's Home	Minutes	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.	Total	Missions	Sunday School Missions	Sunday School Expenses	Value of Property
Bethabara				1 50	30			3 65		75	14 00		20 20				
Bethlehem										1 00			1 00				
Bethel								2 00		50			2 50				
Berry Station	1 00				25					50	14 80		16 53				
Bethpage					55					30			85				
Carbon Hill	5 00	50 00			50					1 50	97 50	120 00	274 50				700 00
Coal City					25					50	10 00		10 75				
Jasper	77 24	109 09	10 00	20 00	2 00	47 25	15 00	5 00	3 00	689 05	108 57	1086 21				26 89	2000 00
Lebanon										50			50				
Liberty Grove not represented																	
Liberty not represented																	
Mt. Zion				1 10						1 00			2 10				
Mt. Joy				1 00						75	17 14		18 89				
Mt Carmel not represented										60			1 15				
New Hope					65					50							
New Prospect			25	25	35				15	1 10	12 65		14 75				
Oakman	2 50	64 29	8 00	3 00	2 00	3 30	4 00	3 25		2 00	137 15	76 72	307 21	5 00	6 00	50	1500 00
Oregonia					50			40	40	50			1 80				
Pleasant Grove					1 50					2 50			4 00				
Providence					1 00					1 00			2 00				
Pleasant Field					70					65			1 35				
Parrish not represented																	
Saragossa not represented																	
Samaria	55			2 00	1 50					1 50	45 56		51 11				
Sulphur Springs					50					50			1 00				
Townley					1 00					75			1 75				
Union Grove										75			75				
L B Harbin										05			05				
Collections at Associations	21 10							17 32								2 20	
	109 39	223 38	18 25	28 85	13 35	3 30	51 25	41 62	5 55	22 70	1037 85	305 29	1820 98	5 00	6 00	29 59	4200 00

Statistics of the North River Association, 1897.

CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK	CLERK'S P O.	Membership	Ine by Baptism	Ine by Letter Restoration	Dec by Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Deaths	Membership	Teachers S. S.	Pupils	Preaching Sab.	Pray'r Meeting	Revivals	
Bethabara	Fayette	W G Baker	H A Kimbrell	Berry Sta	35	2						37						
Bethlehem	Tuscaloosa	A Kilgore	J W Popwell	"	67			3	5			60	5	45	3	1		
Bethel	Walker	J T Jones	Jas Willcut	Oakman	41		2	15			2	27			3			
Berry Sta	Fayette	J L Collins	B F Freeman	Berry Sta	24						1	24	3	30	2	1		
Bethpage	Walker	Jas Hilton	S S Bowser	Jasper	25							23						
Carbon Hill	"	J I McCollum	J W McCarty	Carbon Hill	29	39	28					95		50	1	3	1	1
Coal City	"	J R Sartain	J W Randolph	Jasper		7	4			2	1	28	5	30	4	1	1	
Jasper	"	H C Hurley	S Lacy	"	211		7		1	3	3	200		125	234			
Lebanon	Fayette	J T Jones	E V Smallwood	Patton		9	1		12	7	1	34			1			
Liberty Gr	not represntd				69													
Liberty	not represntd				44													
Mt. Zion	Walker	Wm Patton	W R Thacker	Patton	51	9			3			63						
Mt. Joy	Fayette	W G Baker	H G Amerson	Toledo	52			2			1	49						
Mt Carmel	not represntd				53													
New Hope	Tuscaloosa		E H Bagwell	Oregonia	58			2				56			3			
New Prospect	Walker	W G Gibson	H S Brown	Jasper	112	1	1	2	2			110	6	50	1	1		
Oakman	"	F H Watkins	J S Watts	Oakman	109	21	15	9	1	1	2	132	9	132	4	1	1	
Oregonia	Tuscaloosa	L H Baker	J G Jones	Oregonia	65			13	7		1	49			2	1		
Pleasant Gr	Walker	J R Sartain	W F Sides	Oakman	197	1	1	6	2		1	197			2	1		
Providence	"	J R Sartain	W M Watts	"	83	17	9	3	1			107	6	70	3		1	
Pleasant F	"	Wm Patton	J T Grace	"	38			4				23			2			
Parrish	not represntd				13													
Saragossa	not represntd																	
Samaria	Walker		R F Sumner	Jasper	112	2	7	28			1	91		40	4			
Sulphur Spgs	Fayette	W B Earnest	S D Earnest	Toledo		1	13					26						
Townley	Walker	C C Collins	D A Keeton	Townley	70	2	1		2		1	70			1			
Union Grove	Fayette	A Kilgore	S Wilcut	Oregonia	44		1					33						
					1602	111	87	3	109	35	1	15	1354	48	552		9	4